

COMMUNICATION

PURDUE UNIVERSITY®
FORT WAYNE

GRADUATE STUDIES

POST-BACCALAREATE CERTIFICATE IN
HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS

PFW.EDU/GRADUATE

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Warm greetings on behalf of the graduate faculty in the Department of Communication at Purdue University Fort Wayne! Congratulations on taking the first steps in your journey towards graduate education. Our Master of Arts in Professional Communication will prepare you for the future you envision for yourself. Our dynamic program is centered on the research and practice of effective communication in relationships, organizations, and culture.

Our 36 credit hour program is flexible enough to accommodate students interested in advancing their current career, entering a new career field or working towards enrollment in a Ph.D. program. The program offers three emphases: interpersonal/organizational communication, media studies, and critical/cultural studies.

Our graduates work in diverse fields including the nonprofit sector, corporate training, education, consumer research, business management and beyond. We know our graduate program will be an asset to you whatever your future goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or to schedule an appointment to talk about the program!





Steven Carr, Ph.D

Professor
Professional Communication Graduate Program Director
carr@pfw.edu

BENEFITS

TAILOR YOUR EDUCATION TO YOUR GOALS

Designed to prepare students for professional and academic careers, the Professional Communication program is grounded in the theory and research of human communication. Students range from working professionals, those seeking employment or advancement within a professional field and students interested in advanced graduate work at the doctoral level. The diversity of courses in the department, and those available in other disciplines, enable students to craft a program of study tailored to their individual educational goals. Choose from three specializations: interpersonal and organizational communication theory, media studies, and critical/cultural studies.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

A limited number of teaching assistantships (TAs) are available from the Department of Communication. These are awarded on a competitive basis, thus acceptance into the program does not guarantee receipt of a TA position. Application deadlines differ for students interested in attaining these positions:

Fall admission: February 15
Spring admission: September 15

LEARN FROM DEDICATED, EXPERT FACULTY

Our expert faculty are dedicated to serving and inspiring communication studies by sharing their expertise and scholarship. Faculty in the program work to develop and deliver high quality instruction, maintain and present exceptional programs of research and creative endeavor.

Faculty areas of research include:

- Film and media history
- Interpersonal, family, nonverbal, relational communication
- Media production, media criticism, and rhetoric
- Sex, gender, sexuality, and race
- Qualitative scholarship on family and health issues
- Gender, ethnicity, and class
- Organizational, instructional, and legal communication
- Global media issues in the Arab world
- Journalism and communication law

"Because the field of communication is so varied, students are encouraged to research topics that are relevant to their interests and careers. This means a more tailored program with key communication theories and concepts customized for more relevance and higher information retention. The versatile foundation of rich research concepts has proved invaluable in my marketing career."

Ashley Motia

"I had amazing professors and mentors who believed in and encouraged me, big time. I started to get a sense of who I was and what I could accomplish. I enjoyed my undergraduate studies, even with the challenges of being a "returning adult student" with a family, but graduate courses were a whole new world. I got to dive deeper into the field I really loved and was good at; I was able to study more of the areas for which I was really interested and expand upon what I previously learned. The program at Purdue Fort Wayne is like a little family - you really get to know your professors and fellow classmates and everyone was excited and encouraging about our work."

Molly Link

HEALTH COMMUNICATION CERTIFICATE

The post-baccalaureate certificate in Health Communication is designed to educate students to become better communicators with the healthcare sector. Students will learn about epidemiology, health communication, and organizational leadership. Students will have the opportunity to focus their education in family health, public health, health policy and health organizations. This post-baccalaureate certificate prepares students to work in various sectors of health care and will enhance current health care employees' communication skills.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Work with individuals of various cultural backgrounds to maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared values.
2. Use the knowledge of one's own role to aid medical professionals in appropriate assessing and addressing the health care needs of patients and promoting and advancing the health of populations.
3. Communicate with patients, families, communities, and professionals in health and other fields in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a team approach to the promotion and maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of disease.
4. Apply relationship-building values and the principles of team dynamics to perform effectively in different team roles to plan, deliver, and evaluate patient/population-centered care, and population health programs.
5. Understand, develop, and effectively communicate policies that are safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or higher is required for successful completion
- A grade of B- or higher in each course is required
- At least 9 credit hours must be earned as resident credit
- Only 9 hours from a Master of Arts (MA) or a Master of Science (MS) degree can overlap with credits taken for this certificate

REQUIRED COURSES: CREDITS 12

- COM 58200 - Descriptive/Experimental Research In Communication Cr. 3. -OR-
- COM 58500 - Qualitative Methods In Communication Research Cr. 3. * (or another approved research methods course)

- COM 57600 - Health Communication Cr. 3.
- PADM 51700 - Managerial Epidemiology Cr. 3.

- COM 69800 - Research MA or MS Thesis Cr. 1-18. -OR-
- PADM 60000 - Capstone In Public Administration Cr. 3.

ELECTIVE COURSES: CREDITS 8

An additional 6 hours taken from the following list:

- COM 51200 - Theories Of Interpersonal Communication Cr. 3.
- COM 51800 - Theories Of Persuasion Cr. 3.
- COM 52000 - Small Group Communication Cr. 3.
- COM 52100 - Theories Of Rhetoric Cr. 3.
- COM 57400 - Organizational Communication Cr. 3.
- PADM 54300 - Health Services Management Cr. 3.
- PADM 54500 - The U.S. Healthcare System Cr. 3.
- PADM 54600 - Health Services Utilization Cr. 3.
- PADM 55000 - Topics In Public Administration Cr. 1-3.

Total Credits: 18

APPLICATION

DEADLINES

FEB 15
Recommended for all fall applicants for best selection of classes and assistantships

APR 1
International: regular fall admission

APR 15
U.S. Citizen: conditional fall admission

AUG 15
U.S. Citizen: regular fall admission

SEP 15
Recommended for all spring applicants for best selection of classes and assistantships

NOV 1
International: regular fall admission

NOV 15
U.S. Citizen: conditional spring admission

JAN 2
U.S. Citizen: regular spring admission

STEPS TO APPLY

1. Application: To begin your application create an account through the portal at pfw.edu/grad-apply. Applicants can make and save changes before submitting by logging in with the username and password used to create the account.
2. Application Fee: The Graduate School application fee is $60 (U.S. dollars) for domestic applicants and $75 (U.S. dollars) for international applicants. Your application will not be processed until your nonrefundable application fee has been paid.
3. Transcripts: Through the application portal, you must upload transcript(s) and/or academic document(s) for every institution of higher education you attended regardless of whether or not a degree was received. If a degree was received then it must be printed on the transcripts. If no degree conferral is printed on the transcripts then a copy of the original diploma (degree certificate) is needed. If the documents are not in English, you must upload an English translation certified by the college or university that issued it. For those who have completed degrees in the People's Republic of China, you will also be required to submit the Graduation Certificate.
4. Statement of Purpose (Essay): The statement of purpose should be no more than two pages concerning your purpose for undertaking or continuing graduate study, your reasons for wanting to study at Purdue Fort Wayne, and your research interests, professional plans, and career goals. You also may explain any special circumstances applicable to your background and elaborate on your scholarly publications, awards, achievements, abilities, and/or professional history.
5. Recommendations: Submit names of three individuals who are qualified to evaluate your academic or on-the-job performance who can attest to your ability to pursue a graduate degree.In the online application to the Purdue Graduate School, once you click "Send to Recommender," each individual will receive an email with instructions for submitting their recommendation online. Once submitted, the graduate program to which you applied will have access to view your recommendation(s).

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

You must provide official transcripts and/or academic records at the request of the graduate program or if you are admitted and choose to enroll. An official transcript bears the original signature of the registrar and/or the original seal of the issuing institution. An unofficial transcript printed from your current/previous institution(s) student system is not an acceptable document. Official documents should be submitted to:

Purdue University Fort Wayne
Office of Graduate Studies
Doermer School of Business, Room 304
2101 E Coliseum Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Domestic transcripts must be mailed directly from a Registrar's office to the Office of Graduate Admissions. (You can choose to send the transcripts yourself, but the transcripts must be in an envelope sealed by the Registrar).

INFORMATION
INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

All international applicants must also submit the following items to be considered for admission:

1. English Proficiency Scores:

Routine waivers of an English Proficiency exam are granted for applicants who have been conferred a baccalaureate or graduate or professional degree within the last 24 months from an institution where English is the primary language of instruction in a country/location where English is the native language.

Please visit purdue.edu/gradschool/admissions/how-to-apply/apply-toefl.html which gives the detailed description of English proficiency requirements.

- **TOEFL for Non-Native English Speakers**

(For exams taken before January 21, 2026)
TOEFL iBT Overall Score: 80 with the following minimum section requirements:
  - Reading: 19
  - Listening: 14
  - Speaking: 18
  - Writing: 18

TOEFL Essentials Overall Score: 8 with the following minimum section requirements:
  - Reading: 8
  - Listening: 8
  - Speaking: 8
  - Writing: 8

(For exams taken after January 21, 2026)
TOEFL iBT Overall Score: 4.0 with the following minimum section requirements:
  - Reading: 4.0
  - Listening: 3.5
  - Speaking: 3.5
  - Writing: 4.0

TOEFL Essentials Overall Score: 8 with the following minimum section requirements:
  - Reading: 8
  - Listening: 8
  - Speaking: 8
  - Writing: 8

- **IELTS (Academic Module):** An alternative to the TOEFL, overall band score of 6.5 or higher with minimum section requirements:
  - Reading: 6.5
  - Listening: 6.0
  - Speaking: 6.0
  - Writing: 5.5
- **ELS - Certificate Level 112**

2. Transcript Evaluation

International Applicants must submit original and certified copies for every institution of higher education attended. All documents must be submitted in both English and in the original language. All candidates must hold a four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent in any discipline from a recognized institution.

3. Proof of Financial Support

An official letter and financial statement from a bank, company, or government sponsor indicating the availability of sufficient funds to pay for your tuition and living expenses is required.

4. Visa and/or Permanent Resident Card (PRC)

INTERNATIONAL TRANSCRIPTS SHOULD BE MAILED OR EMAILED DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Purdue University Fort Wayne
International Education
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